



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **May 2016**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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## Green Power

### Green Power Partnership Program Update

In this edition of the Green Power Partnership Program Update:

- EPA Releases Updated Top Partner Rankings
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- Partner Spotlight– Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
- Welcome New Partners
- In the News–Recent Press on the Green Power Partnership
- Upcoming GPP Webinars
- Upcoming Webinar: EPA Center for Corporate Climate Leadership’s Resources for GHG Measurement & Management
- Renewable Energy Markets Conference – Registration and Call for Abstracts Reminder
- RE100’s First Technical Briefing – Making Credible Claims
- Featured in Triple Pundit– "How to Buy a Wind Farm: Lessons in Corporate Green Power"
- On Twitter? Use #EPAGreenPower in Your Tweets
- Past Issues

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 5/18/16*

### The EPA Clean Power Plan and State RPS Programs

Ed Holt of Ed Holt & Associates has written a wide-ranging new report on the relationship between EPA’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) and state RPSs. Among the topics covered are:

- the options states have when they develop state plans
- the role of RPS programs in helping states achieve emission targets under the CPP
- EPA requirements for demonstrating state performance in meeting CPP emission standards
- whether renewable energy certificates used for RPS compliance or voluntary claims are counting the same thing that is being used to measure CPP performance
- how existing REC tracking system infrastructure could help market participants track ownership of CPP compliance instruments and help states verify their CPP performance
- whether state RPSs would motivate incremental emission reduction benefits after implementation of the CPP
- the interaction of the CPP with voluntary renewable energy markets
- how the CPP may affect pre-existing clean energy contracts and state motivations for RPS harmonization.
- This report was prepared for the RPS Collaborative by Edward A. Holt of Ed Holt & Associates, Inc. The RPS Collaborative is a project of the Clean Energy States Alliance.

*Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 5/23/16*

## Better together: How an organized market can help clean up the western US grid

Today 38 separate balancing authorities deliver power out West. A new paper says a single market would be more efficient.

For more than a decade, the U.S. electricity system has been a house divided.

In the early 2000s, the California energy crisis stalled a wave of power sector deregulation that was sweeping the country. Pushed by the promise of greater competition and lower costs, dozens of states had moved to break down the vertically-integrated utility model, setting up organized markets to handle resource planning and dispatch.

But when the brownouts and price spikes hit the Golden State in 2000, the momentum for organized markets screeched to a halt, leaving the nation with a bewildering mix of market and regulatory structures.

*Source: Utility Dive, 5/11/16*

## Register for "Project Matching: Shovel-ready Renewable Energy Projects" webinar

**May 25, 2016**

**11:00 am - 12:30 pm Mountain Time**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Green Power Partnership](#) will host an informational webinar for attendees to learn about new, yet-to-be-built renewable energy projects that may align with their organization's energy, environmental, and financial objectives, as well as how EPA Partner organizations can engage in the development of these projects.

Questions can be directed to [James Critchfield](#), Program Director, at 202-343-9442.

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 5/3/16*

## The Duck has Landed

May has arrived and days are getting longer and warmer. This is good news for baseball fans, barbecue enthusiasts, and grid operators concerned about integrating unprecedented levels of solar energy onto the California grid.

Plugging lots of solar into the power system creates challenges, particularly on days when electricity demand is relatively low and renewable generation is high. Here in California, this happens in March and April when solar intensity is up (relative to the winter months), but air conditioning demand has yet to kick in.

*Source: Energy Institute at Haas, 5/2/16*

## State Regulated Community Shared Solar Projects: Recipes for Success, Present and Future

Community solar projects are proliferating rapidly in dozens of utility service territories, both in states with vertically integrated electric utilities and in states with restructured, competitive electric industry structures.

Join this NRRI Webinar to learn about today's state of the art, ongoing progress, and the most important questions and issues state commissions face in regulating community-shared projects.

*Source: National Regulatory Research Institute, 5/2/16*

**Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.**

## Reports and Studies

### Studies Co-Authored by Berkeley Lab Staff Cover Environmental Benefits, Utility Regulatory Reforms, and Financial Innovation

The Department of Energy has released a series of new reports as part of its [On the Path to SunShot study](#). The DOE launched the SunShot Initiative in 2011 to aggressively drive down the cost of solar energy. The eight reports that together make up the On the Path to SunShot study collectively take stock of progress already made, and highlight barriers and opportunities that remain to achieving SunShot-level cost reductions and deployment volumes.

Berkeley Lab contributed to three of these new reports:

- [The Environmental and Public Health Benefits of Achieving High Solar Penetration in the United States](#): This study finds that a future U.S. electricity system in which solar plays a major role-14% of demand in 2030, and 27% in 2050-would result in enduring environmental and health benefits; that the existing fleet of solar power plants is already offering a down-payment towards those benefits; and that there are sizable regional differences in the magnitude of the benefits.
- [Utility Regulatory and Business Model Reforms for Addressing the Financial Impacts of Distributed Solar on Utilities](#): Net-energy metering (NEM) with volumetric retail electricity pricing has been a lynchpin to the growth of distributed photovoltaics (DPV). Although DPV penetration is still well below 1% of retail sales in all but a few states, concerns about possible impacts on utility financial performance and on non-solar customers have motivated a wide range of reforms.
- [Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in Financing Solar](#): Although solar project finance has historically tended towards ever-more-complex financing structures, the next five years could bring a reversal in this trend, as solar costs decline and tax credits are phased down. In this low-cost, low-incentive future, solar project finance may gravitate towards more-conventional and lower-cost approaches.

*Source: Berkeley Laboratories, 5/18/16*

## **Project Success Stories**

NREL's technology deployment best practices, project support, and technical assistance, and technology acceleration activities are resulting in successful renewable energy and energy efficiency implementation in numerous locations.

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 5/18/16*

## **Financing webinars available online**

The Council of Development Finance Agencies hosts the nation's only electronic resource collection dedicated exclusively to development finance.

CDFA Online Resource Database is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests.

*Source: Council of Development Finance Agencies, 5/1/16*

## **USDA: Delivering Results for the American People**

Under the leadership of Secretary Tom Vilsack, over the last five years, USDA has made critical investments to support the farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, carry out record conservation efforts, facilitate groundbreaking research, promote new markets for rural products, and provide a safe, affordable and nutritious food supply for American families. Under Secretary Vilsack's leadership, we've achieved record results for the American people while saving taxpayers \$1.97 billion in recent years through our [Blueprint for Stronger Service](#) effort to improve, innovative and modernize our services.

*Source: Department of Agriculture, 5/6/16*

## **Western customers play role in latest green power rankings**

The latest [Green Power Partnership update](#) on renewable energy use by businesses, government facilities and educational institutions shows the importance of partners in meeting clean power goals. Western customers—and Western itself—figure prominently on the quarterly list released April 25.

There are now 764 Green Power Partners using renewable energy to meet [100 percent](#) of their U.S. organizationwide electricity use. That is a lot of green kilowatt-hours (kWh)—16 billion annually—to keep the lights on and the equipment humming. The list of power providers needed to supply all that clean electricity is a long one and there are several familiar names on it.

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership via [Energy Services Bulletin](#), 5/2/16*

**Find more [publications and webinars](#).**

## Funding

### Energy Tax Law Alert: IRS Updates "Beginning of Construction" Guidance

The IRS has issued highly anticipated guidance updating the "beginning of construction" requirement for the production tax credit (PTC) under Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) and the investment tax credit (ITC) under Section 48 of the Code. Notice 2016-31 updates the IRS's prior guidance to reflect the extension of the PTC and ITC that was enacted at the end of 2015, and also addresses a number of other issues taxpayers may encounter when determining whether they qualify for the PTC or ITC.

*Source: Stoel Rives LLP, 5/6/16*

### USDA Announces \$15.6 Million in Grants to Strengthen Rural Communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced \$15.6 million in grants to increase prosperity in rural America through research, education, and extension programs focused on promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability. These grants were made through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Foundational program, administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and their value and impact through the agriculture industry can be felt both domestically and internationally," said Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To help these communities remain prosperous and viable, we need to support discovery of new ways that promote economic viability among producers, small businesses, and communities in rural America."

*Source: Department of Agriculture, 5/4/16*

### Solicitation of Proposals for Funding from the Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Feasibility Study Program

#### **Applications Due: July 8, 2016**

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), Division of Economic Development (DED), is soliciting applications from American Indian tribes to participate in a grant program to furnish them with funding for economic development feasibility studies. Proposals to participate in the program will be selected through a competitive process.

Entities eligible to submit proposals to participate in the program include Indian tribes, bands, nations, or other organized groups or communities, including Alaska Native villages or regional or village corporations as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) (Tribes).

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$660,000

*Source: Van Ness Feldman, 5/3/16*

## **Energy Department Announces \$9.1 Million for Small Businesses Focused on Clean Energy Innovations**

In support of National Small Business Week, the Energy Department today announced 61 new projects led by small businesses in 25 states to develop clean energy technologies with a strong potential for commercialization and job creation. These award selections are for \$150,000 each, totaling more than \$9 million, and will help small businesses with promising ideas that could improve manufacturing processes, boost the efficiency of buildings, increase transportation sustainability, and generate electricity from renewable sources.

Companies competing for these grants were encouraged to propose innovations to meet ambitious cost and performance targets. The small businesses receiving the awards are located in 25 states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 5/6/16*

**Find more [funding sources](#).**